

POOR QUALITY DOCUMENT
SEE 201 FOLDER FOR HARDCOPY

FOR : Chief, Contact Division,
Support Branch

16 Jan 62

TO : Resident Agent

TM-3051

Case 30,873 - Michael Harlak

1. The enclosed letter to R/A of 11 Jan 62 from Mrs. Michael Harlak of Thomaston, Connecticut, is forwarded for two reasons:

- a. So that Headquarters may supply direction as to how it should be answered, since reply is necessary;
- b. To show that we were unfortunately correct in our repeated insistence (most recently voiced in Memo 3K-2211 of 13 Feb 60, this case), that the procedure of acquiring releases from the Marlinks, and their cousin, Konstanty Hierski, might have the effect of getting DOB/DOA out of the hook to DOB's satisfaction, but this legalistic action did nothing whatever to get the Agency out of a situation that was not only embarrassing but potentially dangerous.

2. As you will recall, the Marlinks took a trip to Russia thinking that \$1,500 of it would be paid by "the Government" because of what Konstanty told them; that Konstanty briefed them on PFI matters; that, knowing nothing about this, and having received clearance to interrogate them, Agency representatives of this office and of Boston talked to them along PFI lines; that this combination of ingredients caused them to believe that CIA was the original sponsor; that DOB, stating that no commitment had ever been made (and therefore nothing was due), got a statement from Konstanty: "I, the undersigned, assume full responsibility regarding the trip of Michael Harlak to Leningrad", and, through Konstanty, received this from the Marlinks: "I, the undersigned, declare that I have nothing against the U.S. Government, or any other person in relation with our trip to Leningrad, due to some misunderstanding in handling this matter. However, I feel that transportation expenses should be reimbursed."

3. While DOB considered that the two statements covered the situation, the arrival of Mrs. Harlak's letter is pretty conclusive proof that they did not, and, as we reluctantly tried to point out before, there were two obvious reasons for this. The first of that we were enjoined from telling

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STURM: Come in, Mr. Michael Marlik

ME-3071

the Marlaks about Konstanty's written resignation of responsibility; he certainly wasn't going to tell them unless forced to do so, and obviously they knew nothing about it as of 11 Jan. The verbal reason for their the Marlaks' statement itself indicated that, in their minds, the costs of their trip continued to be unfinished business, and that money was due them from somebody -- presumably CIA.

4. The purpose of this letter is not to intercede for payment of \$1,500 of Agency funds to the Marlaks inasmuch as, regardless of what Konstanty may have told them or they may have concluded from the FBI questions we put to them, CIA does not owe them the money. What we do believe is that the Marlaks must be apprised of Konstanty's confessed responsibility for their having incurred the debt. This won't pay them back but at least it will get the Agency off the hot seat. We doubt that Konstanty can be persuaded to give them the true story -- obviously it would be best that way -- and consequently we suggest that we be empowered to tell them.

5. One more point. You will note in Mrs. Marlik's letter the allusion to the possibility of partial reimbursement. We don't know where she got this idea -- possibly from Konstanty -- but it certainly was not from us. We have never discussed with the Marlaks, either in person or in writing, any aspect of possible reimbursement. This information alone makes it important to reply to her in adequate fashion. Please advise.

FILE: Michael Marlik

Enclosure